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32 Washington Street

a good practical exposition of the great various advantages of the remedy treated of — the writing although good, is unfortunately very obscure & difficult —

The name uniformly wrong

Tulio Dovari 1825.

W. H. Harrington

In compliance with the established laws of the University of Pennsylvania, I presume to offer for consideration the following treatise on the medical properties of the Dover's powder.

The inventor's directions for preparing this useful medicine are as follows.

℞ Opium Ipecac & Glycyrrh aa ℥j
Nit Potas: et Sulph Potas aa ℥iv

Place the Nit: and Sulph: Potas: in a red hot mortar and stir them until they cease flaming; then slice in the Opium and grind to a powder, after which add ~~the~~ other ingredients and powder the whole very minutely.

In the Codex of Paris nearly the same instructions are given and although the proportion of opium and Ipecacuanha is less than that in the ordinary method of preparing it, yet the diaphoretic effect is said to be greater on account of the Nitrer.

The Dover's powder of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia is composed of 9 parts of the neutral salt where with

with one of opium and one of Ipecac. The dose of this therefore will be nearly the same as that of the London Colleges 11 grains of the former being equivalent to 10 of the latter.

The most usual plan however, consists in using 1 part of Opium, 1 of Ipecacuanha, and 8 parts of Sulphate of Potassa, so that the common dose, which is 10 grains, is made to contain just one grain of opium.

Having premised these several forms of preparation, it appears requisite in order to appreciate the judiciousness of the combination to make a brief inquiry into the action of the several ingredients when administered individually.

Opium when exhibited in a sufficient dose increases the force, frequency, and fulness of the pulse &c as a primary effect; and secondarily reduces arterial action. Whether this reduction of action depends on previous excitement or be the result of a peculiar power in the medicine is a question yet sub judice.

Cullen supposes that while opium increases

the

the action of the arterial system, it acts as a sedative to the cutaneous organ; and thus by exciting the former, & relaxing the latter, produces a certain and a powerful diaphoresis.—

Opium does not, commonly when unaccompanied by other medicines, produce a moisture on the skin, but on the contrary has a tendency to obstruct perspiration.— Hence the parched skin and and tongue so frequently observed in opium-eaters. When however, the skin becomes dry from pain, irritation, or irregular distribution of the circulating fluids, Opium will, when applied in time, remove the cause and permit the natural action of the cutaneous organ.— Hence its use in the forming stage of catarrh.— That it has no direct influence in promoting diaphoresis is demonstrated by the fact that it is very useful in moderating excessive cutaneous evacuations.— We have no remedy of equal power in restraining the night-sweats of phthisical patients.— And that it checks secretions is fully proved by its beneficial tendency in coryza.—

It may then be asked, of what use is it in the celebrated remedy of D'Ewar?— The question is easily answered.— There is hardly one case in which this diaphoretic is pre

scribed

scribed in which the patient does not suffer pain, or during which the skin is not shrivelled because of the determination of the blood to the internal organs. — Witness Rheumatism, Dysentery, and the whole host of Phlegmasiæ. — Now in all these cases opium is of use by relieving pain, & lessening irritation, and supplying by its stimulating power the senses with blood and thus equalizing circulation. — It also prevents the rejection and lessens the nauseating power of the Ipecacuanha. —

Ipecacuanha, independently of its emetic power, possesses like other emetic medicines the property of cleaning the surface. — It operates in the Dover's powder, mutually with opium, for which that medicine lessens the nauseating quality of Ipecac, & so modifies the narcotic and stimulant effects of opium, as to permit the use of a larger dose than could otherwise be taken with safety. —

That this modifying power of Ipecac does not depend on any specific quality, is perhaps proved by the acknowledged fact, that antimonials exercise a similar influence. —

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

It is apparent
that [illegible] investigation [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] I mean
[illegible]
[illegible]

As diaphoresis is the expulsion of the perspirable fluid thro' the pores of the skin which fluid is an increase of a natural secretion from the blood in its passage through the capillaries; it is evident that to promote this function [illegible] [illegible] greater relaxation of the cutaneous vessels [illegible] [illegible] application of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] is by the administration of those medicines [illegible] which [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] into simple [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

in the perusal; and I will therefore conclude the practical application by noting but one disease more in which I think it deserves our highest esteem.— This disease is the Bilious Colic.— In a violent attack of this disease, after venesection if required, and mechanical distension by a large quantity of hot water, the Borax powder proves a very efficient medicine.— It overcomes the constricted condition of the alimentary canal, and thus paving the way permits the administration of laxative medicines.—

The patient in a few minutes is completely relieved from pain and spasm. a grateful perspiration is in a short time induced, and, in some cases, he gradually sinks into a calm an refreshing slumber.— The bowels which were, before the reduction of spasm, impervious to the action of cathartics are now disposed to evacuation and by the use of the aqueous mixture, a discharge from the intestines takes place, and the cure is thus, speedily effected.

Finis